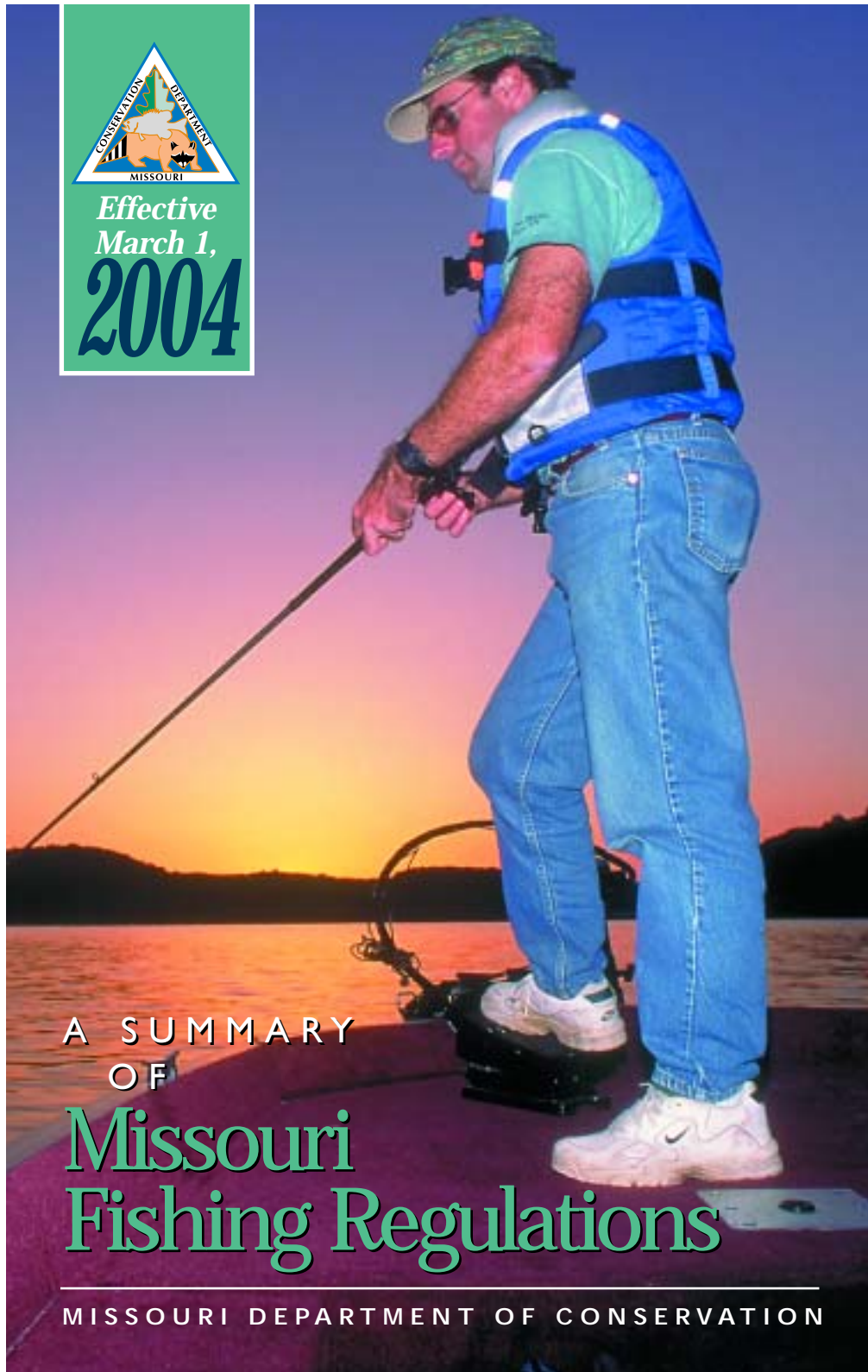




Effective
March 1,
2004



A SUMMARY
OF

Missouri Fishing Regulations

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

In Your Hands

The information in this booklet is only a summary of the fishing rules and contains only those rules that affect the ordinary sport angler. It is NOT a legal document and is subject to revision during the current year. Refer to the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* or the *Missouri Code of State Regulations* for complete rules. See: www.sos.mo.gov

Cliff White

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Sport Fishing in Missouri

When it comes to fishing, Missouri has a lot to offer the angler. While there are more than 200 species of fish in the Show-Me State, anglers focus their attention on about two dozen species. The seasons are long and the daily limits are generous; but there are regulations to improve and maintain the quality of fishing, ensuring that everyone has an equal chance of catching fish, while protecting fisheries resources.

The *Wildlife Code of Missouri* is a permissive code. This means that you may take or attempt to take only those species of fish and other aquatic wildlife permitted by the *Code*, and only by those methods, and only at the times and under the circumstances mentioned. As one angler put it: "If they don't say you can, you can't!"

A permissive code means that rather than giving you an endless list of "thou shalt nots," we keep it simple by telling you what you may do. The reason for this is to make access to Missouri fishing as fair and as uncomplicated as possible.

What's New for 2004

- Expanded reciprocal fishing privileges on the Mississippi River bordering Kentucky. See page 17.
- 8" minimum length limit on rock bass (*goggle-eye*) on the Big Piney River from Hwy. 17 to the Gasconade River. See page 30.
- Extension of the black bass special management area on Big River upstream to Leadwood Access. From Leadwood Access to the Meramec River, there is a 15" minimum length limit on smallmouth bass and daily and possession limit of 12 black bass, which may include no more than 6 largemouth and smallmouth bass in the aggregate, may include only one smallmouth bass. See page 30.
- 15" minimum length limit and 2 fish daily limit on black bass on the Elk River in southwest Missouri. See page 32.
- New winter trout fishing lakes in Columbia and Jackson. See page 12.
- 24" minimum length limit and 1 fish daily limit on flathead catfish at Longview Lake. See page 28.
- As of July 1, 2004, the shovelnose sturgeon will be designated a game fish and have a maximum length limit of 30" and 10 fish daily limit. See page 8.

Looking for a new fishing spot?

The free "Discover Outdoor Missouri" map is your guide to more than 800 conservation areas, numerous urban fishing lakes and other spots to float a bobber. Just write to "Discover Outdoor Missouri" map, Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180.



Permits: General Information

Everyone who fishes must have the appropriate lifetime, annual or daily fishing permit or qualify for an exemption.

The following **do not need** a lifetime, annual or daily fishing permit, but must purchase a daily fishing tag or trout permit when or where required:

- any Missouri resident landowner and resident lessee of land, and all members of their immediate households (*see definition on page 39*), when fishing on the land they own or lease;
- any Missouri resident (*whether or not meeting the definition of a landowner*) who owns land that completely encloses a body of water, or any member of his or her immediate household, when fishing in those waters;
- any Missouri resident 65 years of age or older, and any person (resident or nonresident) 15 years of age or younger. (**Note:** *Youngsters are limited to the following methods—pole and line, gig, longbow, crossbow, snaring, grabbing and snagging*);
- any Missouri resident with a visual acuity not exceeding 20/200 in the better eye with maximum correction, or having 20 degree or less field of visual concentric contraction. Must carry certified statement of eligibility from licensed ophthalmologist, optometrist or physician;
- any Missouri resident who is permanently disabled and confined to a wheelchair. Must carry certified statement of eligibility from a licensed physician;
- any Missouri resident with cerebral palsy or mental retardation as defined in Missouri Revised Statutes, section 630.005, and who is so severely disabled that he or she cannot fish alone. Must be accompanied by a licensed adult angler and possess a certified statement of eligibility from a licensed physician qualified to evaluate and treat the developmentally disabled;
- any Missouri resident who is an honorably discharged veteran who has a service-related disability of 60 percent or greater, or who was a prisoner of war during military service. Must carry a certified statement of eligibility from the Veterans Administration.

Free Guide to Missouri Trout Fishing

The Department's free "Missouri Trout Fishing" map is your guide to 4 trout parks, 120 miles of spring-fed cold water managed trout streams, urban lakes and Lake Taneycomo. To find a new trout fishing area, write to "Missouri Trout Fishing" map, Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180.



Any person—without permit and prescribed area daily fishing tag—may fish during Free Fishing Days, June 12 and 13, 2004. Also, a fishing permit is not required to fish privately stocked waters. On private licensed trout fishing areas, customers and guests may fish for trout without a permit.

A Missouri resident, for permit purposes, is a person who does not claim resident privileges in another state or country, and whose actual residence and legal permanent home address are both in Missouri, and have been for at least 30 days before applying for the permit. Owning real estate or attending a Missouri school does not in itself make you a legal resident. Immigrants who possess an I-551 Resident Alien Card may receive resident permit privileges if they meet the resident requirements listed above.

Missouri residents employed by the United States in the District of Columbia or serving in the U.S. armed forces, and all members of the U.S. armed forces stationed and residing in Missouri, and their immediate families, can purchase resident permits.

Accepting a permit means that you:

- agree to observe all the rules of the *Wildlife Code*;
- will not loan your permit to another;
- will allow inspection of your permit, picture identification, catch and equipment by an agent of the Conservation Department;
- will carry your permit while fishing. If you ordered your permit by telephone or on the internet and have not received it by mail, you must carry the permit authorization number and picture identification with you while fishing until your permit arrives.

Purchasing Permits



The Department's computerized point-of-sale system allows you to purchase or replace your permits through local vendors, by calling 1-800-392-4115 or on the internet at www.wildlifelicense.com. An additional \$2 fee per person will be charged when using the toll-free number or the internet. Lost or mutilated permits can be replaced by any vendor after verifying through a computer file that you had purchased a permit. A replacement permit costs \$2.

The Missouri Conservation Heritage Card, a Missouri Conservation identification number, social security number or driver license number is required to purchase all permits except daily tags.

The Heritage Card, similar in appearance to a credit card, stores registration information on a magnetic strip. The vendor scans the card and keys in the type of permit needed. A printer then issues the permit. The card also can be purchased to replace a lost hunter education card when the certification can be verified through Department records.

The Heritage Card owner will receive a 15 percent discount on selected retail merchandise sold at Conservation Department facilities. Heritage Cards can be purchased for \$2 wherever permits are sold. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.

Note: The Heritage Card is not a permit.

Missouri Fishing Permits

Anglers have a variety of permits from which to choose. The permits, unless noted otherwise on the permit itself, are valid from date of purchase through the last day of February 2005. To pursue, take, possess and transport fish, live bait, mussels, clams, crayfish, frogs and turtles, you will need, unless otherwise exempted, one or more of the following:

Daily Fishing Permit\$5.50
For fish, frogs, mussels, clams, turtles, crayfish and live bait. May be purchased by residents and nonresidents for multiple days.

Resident Fishing Permit\$12
For fish, frogs, mussels, clams, turtles, crayfish and live bait.

Resident Hunting and Fishing Permit\$19
For fish, frogs, mussels, clams, turtles, crayfish, live bait, birds except turkey, mammals except deer, and to sell furbearers taken by hunting. See hunting regulations booklets for additional permits needed to hunt migratory birds.

Nonresident Fishing Permit\$35
For fish, frogs, mussels, clams, turtles, crayfish and live bait.

Trout Permit\$7
To possess trout, except in areas where a daily trout fishing tag is required. A Trout Permit also is needed to fish at trout parks during the winter catch-and-release season. Must also have a fishing permit or qualify for an exemption.

White River Border Lakes Permit\$10
Allows Missouri and Arkansas residents to pursue, take, possess (except trout) and transport fish, frogs, mussels, clams, turtles, crayfish and live bait from the other state's portion of the impounded waters of Bull Shoals, Norfolk and Table Rock lakes without purchasing a nonresident fishing permit. Must also have a fishing permit or exemption issued by the state of residence.

Lifetime Permits show commitment to conservation



For anglers who want to make a long-term commitment to supporting Missouri wildlife, the following permits are available.

Lifetime permits are available to Missouri residents only. Proof of residency, such as a photocopy of a valid Missouri driver's license, is required. For children under the age of 18, the parents' residency will be used.

All lifetime permit holders receive an attractive, durable plastic permit card to carry in the field and special mailings to keep them updated on seasons, regulation changes and other information.

Resident Lifetime Fishing Permit

For fish including trout, frogs, mussels, clams, turtles, crayfish, live bait.

Age 15 and under	.....\$275
Age 16-29	.....\$400
Age 30-39	.....\$350
Age 40-59	.....\$300
Age 60-64	.....\$35

Resident Lifetime Conservation Partner Permit

For fish including trout, frogs, mussels, clams, turtles, crayfish, live bait, migratory and other birds except turkey, mammals except deer, and to sell furbearers taken by hunting. *A federal duck stamp also is required for hunting waterfowl.*

Age 15 and under	.....\$550
Age 16-29	.....\$800
Age 30-39	.....\$700
Age 40-59	.....\$600
Age 60-64	.....\$70

For an application, call 573/522-4115, ext. 3574, or write to Lifetime Permits, Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180. Periodic validation of these permits will be required.

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 18th & C Streets N.W., Washington D.C. 20240

Sport Fishing: General Rules

■ Methods

You may take fish by pole and line, trotline, throwline, limb line, bank line and jug line. You must not use more than 3 unlabeled poles at any one time. No matter what methods you use, you may not use more than a total of 33 hooks at any one time. Hooks on trotlines must be staged at least 2 feet apart. Hooks on any type of line, as well as the line itself, must be attended every 24 hours or removed.

Certain species may be taken by the use of longbow, crossbow, gig, snare or by underwater spearfishing, snagging or grabbing. (See page 9.) However, game fish not hooked in the mouth or jaw, except paddlefish legally taken during the paddlefish snagging season, must be returned to the water unharmed immediately. All of the above methods of taking fish are considered sport fishing methods.

Of course, no one may use any explosive, poison, chemical or electrical equipment to kill or stupefy fish. Such material or equipment may not even be possessed on waters of the state or adjacent banks. Spearguns may not be possessed on unimpounded waters or adjacent banks, and spears may not be propelled by explosives. It also is illegal to attempt to take fish by hand, with or without a hook, and to intentionally leave or abandon any commonly edible portion of any fish.

Fish traps, including slat and wire ones, may not be possessed on waters in Missouri or on adjacent banks. However, minnow traps are allowed. See live bait section on page 10.

Labels Required: You must place a tag of a durable material with your full name and address on minnow traps, trotlines, throwlines, limb lines, bank lines, jug lines and live boxes.

Use of Lights: As an aid to fishing methods, an artificial light may be used only above the water surface. However, while fishing by pole and line only, underwater lights may be used to attract fish.

■ Daily and Possession Limits

You may possess no more than the daily limit of any given species while you are on waters, or on the banks of waters, where daily limits for those species apply. **Where only catch-and-release fishing is allowed, fish must be returned unharmed immediately to the water after being caught.** See regulations on culling on page 38.

The possession limit is twice the statewide daily limit. See page 8. Fish you take and possess must be kept separate from fish taken by another person. If you are away from your catch, the device holding the fish must be plainly labeled with your full name and address.

Jug Line Regulations

Anchored jug lines must be completely removed if left unattended for more than 24 hours. The anchor must be sufficient to render a jug immobile so that a wind, current or large fish will not move the jug. A line that does not meet this standard is considered unanchored. Under normal fishing conditions, a 2-pound weight for a 2-liter soda bottle would be an appropriate anchor. Use a heavier weight to anchor larger floats or during times of high wind and current.

Unanchored jug lines must be personally attended at all times. Complying with this regulation will reduce catfish waste and jug line litter on our public lakes and rivers. Anglers who cannot personally attend their jugs lines at all times can still enjoy jug fishing by using anchors. Personally attended means that the angler whose name is labeled on the jug line:

- is in visual sight of and close proximity to the jug line
- can see the jug line bob and move when a fish is hooked and can retrieve it
- can see and talk to a conservation agent checking the line
- can get the attention or deter anyone who is tampering with the jug line.

■ Length Limits

A minimum length limit means that fish below a designated length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught. A slot length limit or protected length range means that fish within a designated length range must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught. A maximum length limit means that fish above a designated length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught. See page 19 for details on how to measure fish.

Regardless of where taken, fish that are not of a legal length cannot be possessed on the waters or banks where length limits apply. The head and tail must remain attached to the fish while you are fishing on waters where length limits apply.

■ Transportation

The fish you catch in Missouri, or elsewhere, may be possessed and transported as your personal baggage, if you have the required permit. Fish may be stored, preserved or refrigerated only at your home, camp, place of lodging or in a commercial establishment. Stored fish must be labeled with your full name, address, permit number, species of fish and the date placed in storage. Fish taken in another state by methods not permitted in Missouri may not be possessed on waters of the state.

Your purchase of hunting and fishing equipment and motorboat fuels supports wildlife and sport fish restoration and boating access facilities.



Game Fish

	Open Season	Daily Limit	Length Limit
Black bass (<i>largemouth, smallmouth, spotted/Kentucky</i>) From impoundments	all year	6 ¹	none ¹
From Ozark streams ²	May 22, 2004–Feb. 28, 2005	6 ¹	12" minimum ¹
From other streams ²	all year	6	12" minimum
Catfish Channel & blue	all year	10 ¹	none ¹
Flathead	all year	5 ¹	none ¹
Crappie (<i>black & white</i>)	all year	30 ¹	none ¹
Muskellunge	all year	1	36" minimum ¹
Northern pike	all year	1	none
Paddlefish (<i>spoonbill</i>) ³	March 15–April 30 ¹	2 ¹	24" minimum ¹
Pickereel (<i>chain & grass</i>)	all year	6	none
Rock bass (<i>goggle-eye</i>) & warmouth	all year	15 ¹	none ¹
New Shovelnose sturgeon (<i>as of 7/1/04</i>) ⁴	all year	10	30" maximum
Trout	all year	5 ¹	none ¹
Walleye & sauger	all year ⁵	4 ¹	15" minimum ¹
White, yellow & striped bass & their hybrids	all year	15 ¹	no more than 4 longer than 18" ¹

¹ Applies on all waters, except those listed on pages 14-16 and 26-36 and on areas that are posted with special regulations.

² Black bass fishing and possession is open year 'round on the Mississippi River; all waters north of the south bank of the Missouri River, the St. Francis River downstream from Wappapello Dam and on streams in that portion of southeast Missouri bounded by a line from Cape Girardeau following Missouri highways 74 and 25, U.S. highways 60, 67 and 160, and the west bank of the Little Black River to the Arkansas line. In the rest of the state, referred to as Ozarks streams, black bass from streams may not be possessed from March 1–May 21.

³ Extracted paddlefish eggs may not be possessed while on waters of the state or adjacent banks, and may not be transported. They also may not be bought, sold or offered for sale.

⁴ Shovelnose sturgeon must remain intact while on waters of the state or adjacent banks.

⁵ From Feb. 20 through April 14, walleye and sauger can be taken and possessed only between 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. CST in the unimpounded portions of all streams, except the Missouri and Mississippi rivers.

Game Fish

The fish species listed at left may be pursued and taken by pole and line, trotline, throwline, limb line, bank line and jug line. During the open season, shovelnose sturgeon (which are classified as gamefish as of July 1, 2004) and paddlefish also may be taken by snagging, snaring and grabbing during the same seasons as nongame fish where such methods are allowed. See page 39 for the definition of game fish.

Seasons and limits listed on page 8 apply statewide unless the body of water has special regulations as listed on pages 14-16 and 26-36 or if the area is posted with special regulations.

Nongame Fish

Nongame fish include bluegill, other sunfishes (except warmouth), carp, carpsuckers, suckers, buffalo, drum, gar, shovelnose sturgeon (until June 30, 2004) and all other species other than those defined as game fish or listed as endangered. Shovelnose sturgeon are classified as gamefish as of July 1, 2004. See page 39.

■ **Methods and Seasons:** Nongame fish may be taken as described below. See Special Area Regulations on pages 26-36 for restrictions on certain waters.

- ✓ Using pole and line, trotline, throwline, limb line, bank line and jug line throughout the year.
- ✓ Using snagging, snaring or grabbing from March 15 through May 15 and from Sept. 15 through Jan. 31.
- ✓ Using a longbow between sunrise and midnight on streams and during all hours throughout the year on impounded waters; except that from Feb. 1 through March 31 on impounded waters, fish may be taken only between sunrise and midnight.

Attention Giggers and Anglers: Help Protect the Hellbender

Hellbenders are harmless, nonpoisonous aquatic salamanders that live in clear, swift-flowing rivers and streams throughout the Ozarks. These large amphibians, 11-20 inches long, live under large flat rocks, venturing out at night to feed. Ninety percent of hellbenders' diet is crayfish. They don't eat game fish, but occasionally feed on minnows and earthworms. Due to declines in hellbender



numbers, they are protected and cannot be taken from the wild or killed. If you catch one on hook and line, release it unharmed by removing the hook or simply cutting the line. If you gig fish or frogs, remember it is illegal to gig hellbenders. Thank you for helping to protect this unique Ozark amphibian, which is part of our natural heritage. Report sighting by calling 573/751-4115.

- ✓ Using a gig on streams and impounded waters between sunrise and midnight from Sept. 15 through Jan. 31, and from impounded waters between sunrise and sunset throughout the remainder of the year.
- ✓ Using crossbow or underwater spear on impounded waters between sunrise and sunset throughout the year.
- ✓ In temporary overflow waters, nongame fish may be taken outside the banks of a river or ditch by gig, underwater spearfishing, longbow, crossbow, snagging or grabbing between sunrise and sunset throughout the year.

■ **Daily Limits:** The daily limit for nongame fish, except for carp and goldfish listed below, is 50 in the aggregate if taken by pole and line, trotline, throwline, limb line, bank line, jug line or underwater spear. If taken by other methods, the daily limit is 20 in the aggregate. See pages 31 and 34 for exceptions on the Current and Mississippi rivers.

There is no limit on bighead carp, common carp, goldfish, grass carp and silver carp.

Shovelnose sturgeon and bowfin must remain whole and intact while on waters of the state or adjacent banks.

Bullfrogs & Green Frogs

■ **Methods:** Bullfrogs and green frogs may be taken by hand, handnet, gig, longbow, trotline, throwline, limb line, bank line, jug line, snagging, snaring, grabbing or pole and line. An artificial light may be used.

■ **Season:** Sunset June 30 through Oct. 31.

***Note:** On June 30, 2004, sunset is at 8:37 p.m. Daylight-Saving Time in Jefferson City and points on the same longitude north and south. For locations east, subtract one minute for each 13.5 miles of airline distance. For locations west, add one minute for each 13.5 miles. For example, St. Louis is 106 miles east, so you need to subtract 8 minutes; Kansas City is 133 miles west, so add 10 minutes. Or see the U.S. Naval Observatory website: <http://aa.usno.navy.mil/>.*

■ **Daily Limit:** 8 in the aggregate.

Live Bait

Live bait includes: crayfish; freshwater shrimp; frogs (*except bullfrogs and green frogs*); tiger salamander larvae; bluegill, green sunfish and bullheads up to 5 inches long; and other nongame fish up to 12 inches long.

■ **Methods:** Live bait may be taken by minnow trap, dip net, throw net, pole and line or seine. Minnow traps must have a throat opening not more than 1 1/2 inches in any dimension, and must be labeled with your full name and address. Traps must be removed if they cannot be checked at least once every 24 hours. Seines

must not be more than 20 feet long and 4 feet deep, with a mesh of not more than 1/2 inch bar measure. Live bait, except fish, may be taken by hand. Crayfish also may be taken by trap with an opening not to exceed 1 1/2 inches by 18 inches.

All bluegill, green sunfish and bullheads more than 5 inches long and other species of nongame fish more than 12 inches long must be returned to the water immediately after being caught by any of the methods listed above except pole and line. The daily limits for nongame fish apply to the large fish taken by pole and line.

■ **Seasons:** Live bait may be taken throughout the year.

■ **Daily Limit:** The daily limit is 150 in the aggregate, except there is no daily limit on bighead carp, common carp, goldfish, grass carp and silver carp. Live bait, when purchased or obtained from a source other than the waters of the state or a licensed commercial fisherman, must be species on the Approved Species List and may be possessed in any number as long as you carry a dated receipt for the fish.

■ **Other species that may be used as bait include:**

- ✓ Nongame fish of any size, except bowfin and shovelnose sturgeon, if taken according to the methods and seasons listed on page 9.
- ✓ Mussels and clams legally taken by sport fish methods.

Game fish or their parts may not be used as bait.

Mussels and Clams

■ **Methods and Season:** May be taken by hand, handnet or pole and line throughout the year.

■ **Daily Limit:** 5 in the aggregate. This limit applies to live and dead animals. Two shell halves (*valves*) shall be considered 1 mussel or clam. Asiatic clams may be taken and possessed in any number.

Turtles

■ **Methods:** Common snapping turtles and soft-shelled turtles may be taken by hand, handnet, longbow, crossbow, trotline, throwline, limb line, bank line, jug line, snagging, snaring, grabbing or pole and line. Shooting turtles with firearms is prohibited.

***Note:** There is NO open season on the rare alligator snapping turtle.*

■ **Seasons:** Common snapping turtles throughout the year; soft-shelled turtles from July 1 through Dec. 31.

■ **Daily Limit:** 5 common snapping turtles; 5 softshell turtles.

Trout Fishing Areas

Missouri has several types of trout fishing areas, each with its own special rules. In addition to a fishing permit, you will need a trout permit to possess trout on all waters outside of the trout parks and a daily tag while fishing in the trout parks. Unless otherwise indicated, the season is open all year.

■ Trout Parks

Maramec Spring Trout Park, Bennett Spring State Park, Montauk State Park and Roaring River State Park are open and stocked daily from March 1 through Oct. 31. Anglers need a fishing permit, unless exempt, as well as a daily trout tag. The tag is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children 15 years of age or younger.

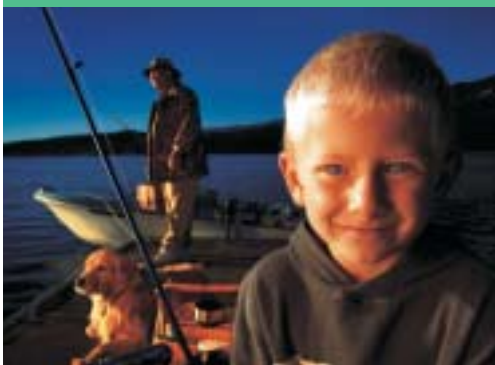
The daily limit is 5, and you must stop fishing for any species after having 5 trout in possession. Area regulations, fishing methods and zones vary. Ask for details when you purchase your tag.

The trout parks are open for catch-and-release fishing only from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from the second Friday in November to the second Sunday in February. A trout permit and a fishing permit are required. Only flies may be used.

■ Winter Trout Fishing Areas

As part of the Kansas City and St. Louis Urban Fishing programs, rainbow trout are stocked from November through March in the city, county and Department lakes listed in the following charts. Fishing is permitted year 'round during normal park or area hours. Trout permits are required if trout are kept.

New Working in cooperation with local chapters of Trout Unlimited and the cities of Columbia and Jackson, winter trout fishing also is provided at Cosmo-Bethel Lake and Rotary Lake. Trout are stocked one time at the beginning of November.



Free Fishing Days, June 12 and 13, are a great time to introduce kids to the joys of fishing. No permits or prescribed area daily fishing tags are required for that weekend.

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FOR FISHING, BOATING, AND
THE ENVIRONMENT

www.waterworkswonders.org

Regulations for Winter Trout Fishing Areas

Statewide methods and limits apply, except during the dates listed on the chart.

Columbia Cosmo-Bethel Lake New	Nov. 1-Jan. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catch & release only for trout Flies, artificial lures and unscented soft plastic baits only
Jackson Rotary Lake New	Nov. 1-Jan. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catch & release only for trout Flies, artificial lures and unscented soft plastic baits only Use of chum is prohibited
Kansas City Lakes Alex George (<i>Jackson County</i>) Bowlin Road (<i>Jackson County</i>) Chaumiere (<i>Kansas City</i>)	Statewide methods and limits apply year 'round.	
Coot (<i>James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area</i>)	Nov. 1-Feb. 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catch & release only for trout Flies, artificial lures and unscented soft plastic baits only
St. Louis Lakes Lakes 22, 23, 24 (<i>August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area</i>) Carondelet Park Boathouse (<i>St. Louis</i>) January-Wabash Park (<i>Ferguson</i>) O'Fallon Park (<i>St. Louis</i>) Suson Park Lakes 1, 2, 3 (<i>St. Louis County</i>) Vlasis Park (<i>Ballwin</i>)	Nov. 1-Jan. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only 1 pole may be used Use of chum is prohibited You must stop fishing for all species after having 5 trout in possession.
Lakes 21, 28 (<i>August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area</i>) Jefferson (<i>St. Louis</i>) Tilles Park (<i>St. Louis County</i>) Walker (<i>Kirkwood</i>) Wild Acres Park (<i>Overland</i>)	Nov. 1-Jan. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catch & release only for trout Flies, artificial lures and unscented soft plastic baits only Only 1 pole may be used Use of chum is prohibited

Trout Fishing in Ozark

Streams & Lakes

Area name & type Directions/Total miles	County	Length Limit	Daily Limit	Authorized Lures	Area name & type Directions/Total miles	County	Length Limit	Daily Limit	Authorized Lures
Barren Fork Creek WTMA County Road A-D to its junction with Sinking Creek – 3.2 miles	Shannon	Catch & release	0	Artificial lures & flies	Little Piney Creek TMA Downstream of Milldam Hollow Access – 3.7 miles	Phelps	None	5	All
Blue Springs Creek WTMA ¹ From Blue Spring to its junction with Meramec River – 4 miles	Crawford	At least 18"	1	Artificial lures & flies	Meramec River STMA ¹ From Highway 8 bridge to Scott's Ford and in Dry Fork Creek from the elevated cable crossing to its confluence with the Meramec River – 8.2 miles	Phelps & Crawford	At least 15"	3	Artificial lures & flies
Capps Creek TMA 4 miles upstream from its junction with Shoal Creek	Barry & Newton	None	5	All	Mill Creek WTMA ¹ Yelton Spring to its junction with Little Piney Creek including Wilkins Spring and spring branch – 7.7 miles	Phelps	At least 18"	1	Artificial lures & flies
Crane Creek WTMA Upstream from Quail Spur Road crossing on Stone County Road 13- 195 – 8 miles	Stone & Lawrence	Catch & release	0	Artificial lures & flies	Niangua River STMA ¹ Entire stream and tributaries – 11.5 miles of stocked stream	Dallas	Rainbows: none Browns: at least 18"	5 (only 1 brown)	All
Current River STMA ¹ River and its tributaries from lower boundary of Montauk State Park to Cedar Grove Bridge – 9 miles	Dent	At least 15"	3	Artificial lures & flies	North Fork of the White River WMTA ¹ Upper outlet of Rainbow Spring to Blair Bridge – 5.9 miles	Ozark	At least 18"	1	Artificial lures & flies
Current River TMA Downstream from Cedar Grove Bridge crossing – 7.7 miles	Dent	None	5	All	North Fork of the White River STMA ¹ Unimpounded river and its tributaries from Blair Bridge to Norfork Lake – 7.6 miles	Ozark	At least 15"	3	All
Eleven Point River WTMA ¹ Greer Spring Branch junction to Turner Mill Access – 5.5 miles	Oregon	At least 18"	1	Artificial lures & flies	Roaring River TMA From the lower boundary of Roaring River State Park to Table Rock Lake – 4 miles	Barry	None	5	All
Eleven Point River TMA Downstream from Turner Mill Access – 14.2 miles	Oregon	None	5	All	Roubidoux Creek TMA Upstream of the elevated utility cable crossing approximately 1/2 mile below Business I-44 bridge in Waynesville – 0.9 miles	Pulaski	None	5	All
Lake Taneycomo ^{1,2} & its tributaries From the closed zone 760 feet below Table Rock Dam to the mouth of Fall Creek – 3 miles	Taney	Rainbows: less than 12" or greater than 20" Browns: at least 20"	5 (only 1 brown)	Artificial lures & flies	Key to Management Area Abbreviations WTMA – Wild Trout Management Areas are not stocked. TMA – Trout Management Areas are stocked periodically with rainbow trout. STMA – Special Trout Management Areas are stocked annually with brown trout.				
Lake Taneycomo ^{1,2} Mouth of Fall Creek to Powersite Dam and tributaries to Lake Taneycomo – 19.7 miles	Taney	Rainbows: None Browns: at least 20"	5 (only 1 brown)	All					
Little Piney Creek WTMA ¹ From Phelps County line in Sections 9 and 16 of T35N, R8W, including Piney Spring Branch and Lane Spring Branch to Milldam Hollow Access – 9.9 miles	Phelps	At least 18"	1	Artificial lures & flies	Don't trespass! Many trout streams flow through private land. Before entering, ask landowners for permission.				

¹ While on any waters with length limits, all trout you possess must be kept with head, tail and skin intact.

² Lake Taneycomo is stocked monthly with rainbow trout and annually with brown trout.

More Trout Fishing in Ozark Streams & Lakes

Area name & type Directions/Total miles	County	Length Limit	Daily Limit	Authorized Lures
Roubidoux Creek STMA ¹ Downstream of the elevated utility cable crossing about 0.5 mile below Business I-44 bridge in Waynesville to its junction with the Gasconade River – 2.2 miles	Pulaski	At least 15"	3	Artificial lures & flies
Spring Creek WTMA ¹ Relfe Spring to its junction with Big Piney River – 6.2 miles	Phelps	At least 18"	1	Artificial lures & flies
Stone Mill Spring TMA ² Entire spring branch – 0.3 mile	Pulaski	None	5	All

¹ While on any waters with length limits, all trout you possess must be kept with head, tail and skin intact.

² In addition to a state fishing license, a Fort Leonard Wood sportsmen's permit and stamp is required.

Key to Management Area Abbreviations

WTMA – Wild Trout Management Areas are not stocked.

TMA – Trout Management Areas are stocked periodically with rainbow trout.

STMA – Special Trout Management Areas are stocked annually with brown trout.

Catch on to catch-and-release fishing

Often, fishing is for pleasure rather than for food on the table. Practicing catch-and-release, by releasing fish immediately after they are caught, is a conservation measure that contributes to fish populations, rather than decreases them. Following a few basic guidelines will increase the chances of a fish's survival:

- Whenever possible, do not take the fish out of the water.
- Filing the barbs off hooks makes removal much easier.
- Never pull a hook from the fish's throat or stomach; it is better to cut the line—many hooks will rust away.
- Avoid excessive handling of fish.
- If handling is necessary, make certain not to squeeze or drop the fish.
- Never put your fingers in the gills or eye sockets.

Many anglers are starting to "catch on" to catch-and-release. Releasing fish helps maintain a fishery for the future!



Reciprocal Fishing Privileges

Fishing privileges on boundary waters common to Missouri and an adjoining state are mutually agreed upon by the two states. It is your responsibility to know which state you are fishing in and the regulations that apply to the waters that you are fishing.

You must be licensed in Missouri to fish in Missouri tributaries of the Mississippi, Missouri and St. Francis rivers. You may not fish in the tributaries of these rivers in a state where you are not licensed.

Properly licensed or exempted anglers from Missouri:	Missouri River		Mississippi River			St. Francis River
	Nebraska	Kansas	Illinois	Kentucky	Tennessee	Arkansas
May fish in the flowing waters of either state.	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
May fish in either state's adjacent backwaters and shared oxbow lakes, and may fish from the bank or attach to the bank of either state.	yes	yes	yes	yes* New	yes	no
Must abide by the regulations of the state in which you are fishing, regardless of where you are licensed.	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Must abide by the regulations of the state where you are licensed, regardless of where you are fishing.						yes
Must abide by the most restrictive of the two states' regulations when fishing the other state's waters.	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	

* For the purposes of these reciprocal fishing privileges with Kentucky, the Mississippi River is defined as the main channel and immediate side or secondary channels or chutes. It does not include oxbow or floodplain lakes, or backwaters that extend onto the floodplain or up tributaries when the river level exceeds 33 feet at the Cairo, Ill., gauging station.

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To subscribe, send your name, address and payment if required to: *Conservationist* Subscription, Circulation Office, Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City MO 65102-0180.

You'll begin receiving the magazine in about 6 to 8 weeks. One magazine per household, please.

Poachers lose privileges across state lines

Missouri is a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator's Compact, an agreement whereby 17 participating states share information about game law violators and honor each other's decisions to deny permits to perennial poachers. In the past, poachers whose hunting, fishing or trapping privileges were suspended in one state could drive to another state and purchase a permit. Now, if your permit is revoked in Missouri, you will lose privileges in Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. Missouri, in turn, will honor revocations in these same states.

Handle lead fishing sinkers carefully

To prevent exposure to lead while fishing, take the following precautions:

- Wash hands with soap after holding lead sinkers, especially before eating.
- Never bite down or chew lead sinkers.
- Take proper precautions when melting lead and pouring sinkers at home.
- Use sinkers made of other materials, such as steel, bismuth, tungsten, resin and glass. Avoid sinkers made from zinc, as they are toxic to waterfowl.

How to Measure a Fish (total length)



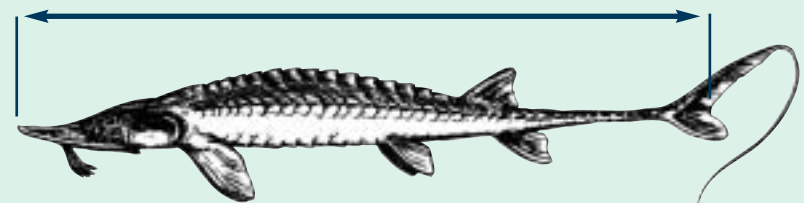
Total length is measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail, with the fish laid flat on the ruler, with the mouth closed and the tail lobes pressed together.

How to Measure a Paddlefish



Paddlefish are measured from the eye to the fork of the tail.

How to Measure a Sturgeon

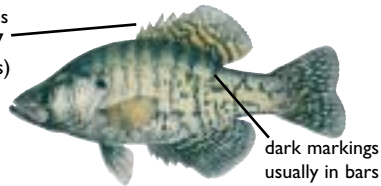


Sturgeon are measured from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail. Only shovelnose sturgeon are legal to keep. See pages 23 and 24 for identification tips.

Do You Know the Fishes of Missouri?

White crappie

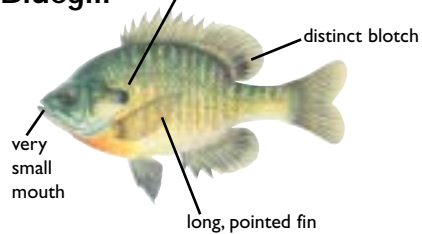
5 or 6 dorsal fin spines
(Black crappie have 7
or 8 dorsal fin spines)



dark markings
usually in bars

Bluegill

distinct ear flap
without border
or orange spot



distinct blotch

very
small
mouth

long, pointed fin

Rock bass (Goggle-eye)

usually no
dark blotch



tail fin mottled

Channel catfish

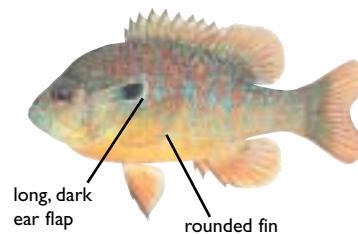
tail fin forked



upper jaw extends
beyond lower jaw

anal fin margin rounded
with 24-29 rays

Longear sunfish

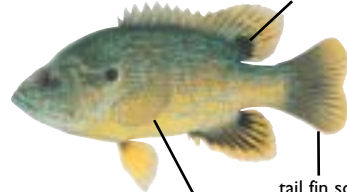


long, dark
ear flap

rounded fin

Green sunfish

usually dark
blotch



rounded fin

tail fin solid

Flathead catfish

upper fin lighter
than remainder of fin

lower jaw extends
beyond upper jaw

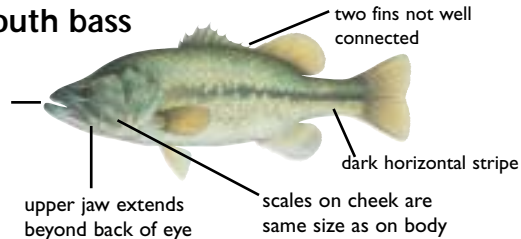


tail fin square

Largemouth bass

smooth tongue

upper jaw extends
beyond back of eye



two fins not well
connected

dark horizontal stripe

scales on cheek are
same size as on body

Striped bass

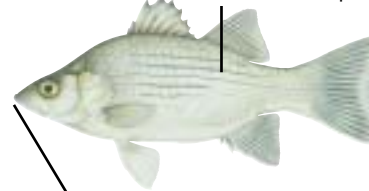
horizontal stripes



teeth on back of tongue
in two parallel patches

White bass

horizontal stripes



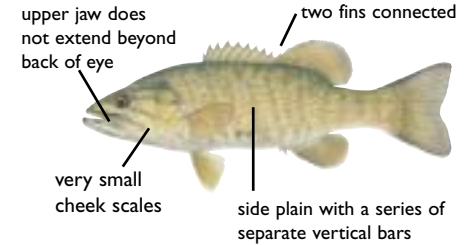
teeth on back of tongue in
a single patch

Smallmouth bass

upper jaw does
not extend beyond
back of eye

very small
cheek scales

side plain with a series of
separate vertical bars



two fins connected

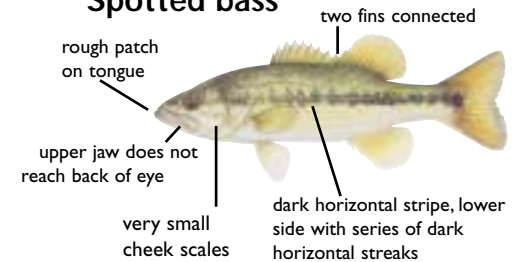
Spotted bass

rough patch
on tongue

upper jaw does not
reach back of eye

very small
cheek scales

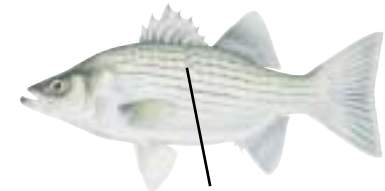
dark horizontal stripe, lower
side with series of dark
horizontal streaks



two fins connected

White bass-striped bass hybrid

horizontal stripes broken



Black bullhead

barbels

spines on front of fin

dark, not mottled



tail fin square

Joseph R. Tomelleri illustrations

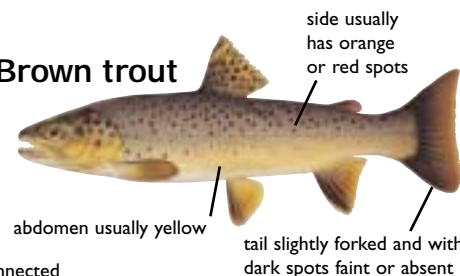
It is important to correctly identify the fish you catch so you can abide by the seasons, daily limits, length limits and other regulations.

When in doubt about the identity or legal length, play it safe and return the fish to the water unharmed immediately.

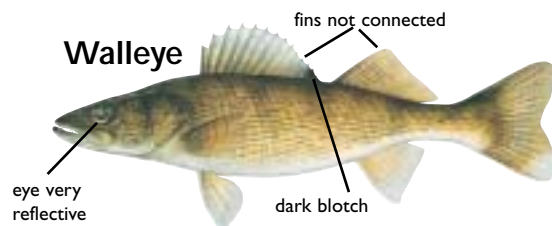
Rainbow trout



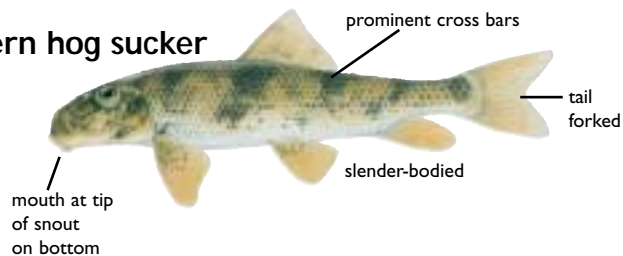
Brown trout



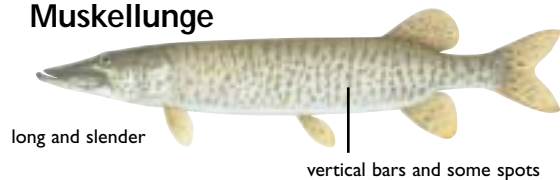
Walleye



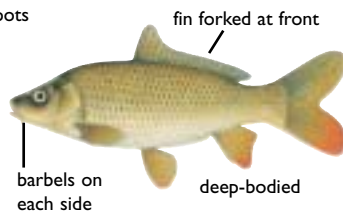
Northern hog sucker



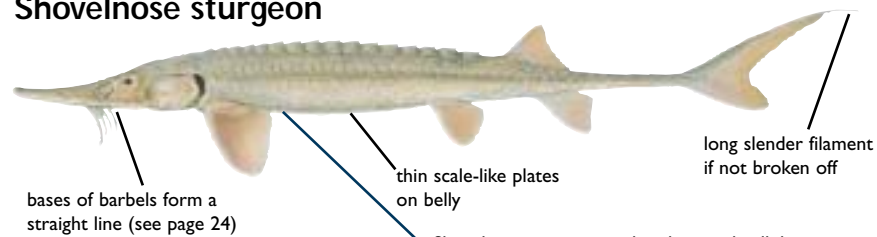
Muskellunge



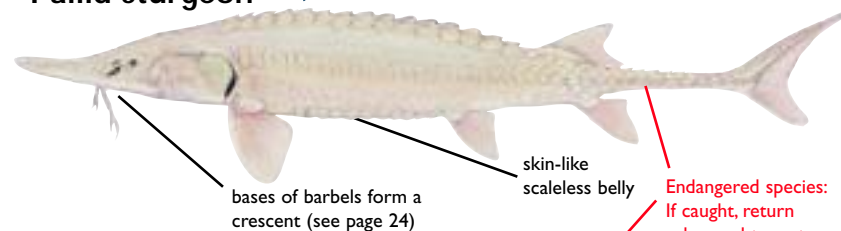
Common carp



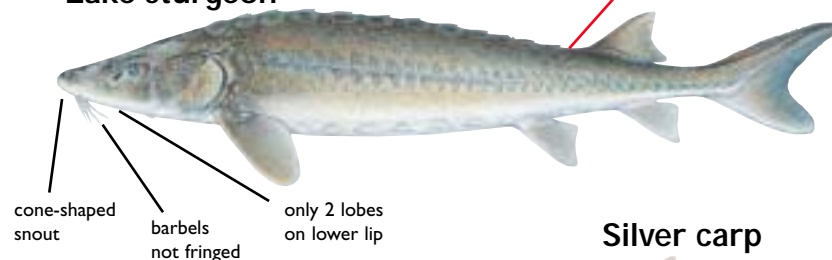
Shovelnose sturgeon



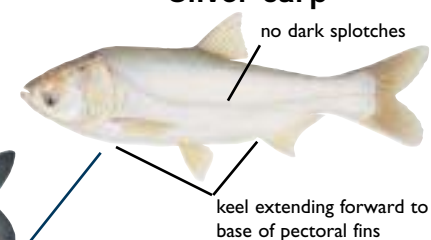
Pallid sturgeon



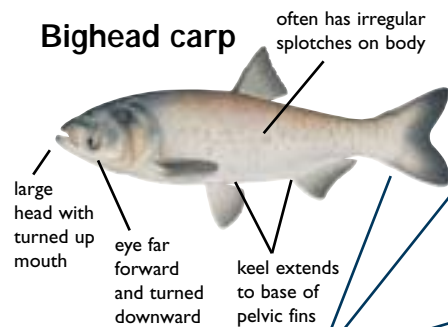
Lake sturgeon



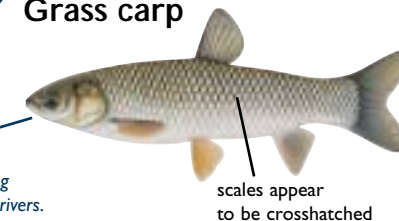
Silver carp



Bighead carp



Grass carp



These non-native Asian carp are becoming increasingly abundant in Missouri's large rivers.

Protect the endangered pallid sturgeon



Jim Rathert

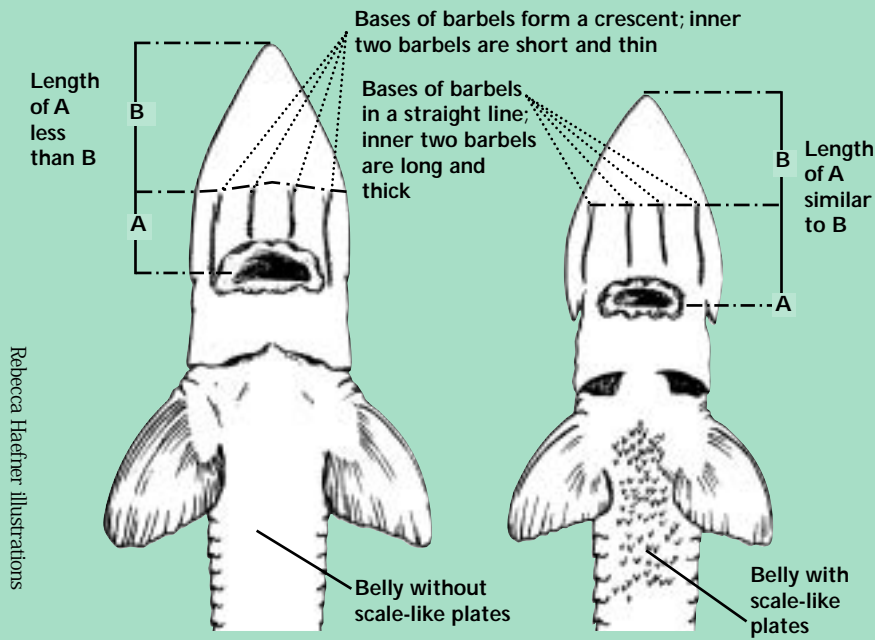
Pallid and shovelnose sturgeon look a lot alike. Know the differences listed below, and always return pallid sturgeon, pictured above and below on the left, unharmed to the water immediately.

Endangered pallid sturgeon

- Grayish-white color
- Found in the Missouri River and in the Mississippi downstream from the mouth of the Illinois River
- May exceed 30 inches in length and reach 10 pounds or more

Shovelnose sturgeon

- Reddish-brown or buff color. See illustration on page 23.
- Found throughout Missouri and Mississippi rivers
- Rarely exceeds 30 inches in length or 5 pounds



Rebecca Haefner illustrations

If you catch a pallid sturgeon, shown above on the left, release it immediately, then report the sighting so more can be learned of the status of this endangered fish to: Missouri Department of Conservation, 1907 Hillcrest Drive, Columbia, MO 65201, or 573/884-6861.



Showcase Your First Catch

The First Fish Award commemorates that special moment in every anglers' career, the landing of their first fish. The award certificate, suitable for framing, is available to any first time angler regardless of age. There is no time limit on when the fish was caught; so whether your first fish was caught last week or 50 years ago, send for an application by writing to:

First Fish Program
Missouri Department of Conservation
P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180

Applications also are available at:
www.missouriconservation.org.

We'll Stock Your Pond

The Conservation Department provides fingerling largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish for stocking new or renovated ponds that meet minimum qualifications. These "state" fish remain under statewide fishing rules. If you prefer, we'll help you locate a commercial source. Either way, you decide who can or can't fish on your property.

Applications are available at the regional office near you and on the Department's website: www.missouriconservation.org.



Special Area Regulations

Most public fishing areas have methods, seasons, limits or other fishing regulations that are different than the statewide rules on page 8. These special regulations are posted at the areas. It is your responsibility to know what regulations apply to the water area you are fishing. Please refer to area brochures, signs and bulletin boards before fishing these waters.

Special regulations on large reservoirs, rivers, streams and trout areas are summarized below. Special regulations also apply to the tributaries of some large reservoirs. These rules are listed under the name of the lake or stream. **Statewide regulations apply unless otherwise indicated below.**

Large Reservoirs

Blue Springs Lake

- Pole and line fishing only, except that shad may be taken by dip net or throw net.
- Black bass—15" minimum length limit

Bull Shoals Lake

Lakewide:

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass; 12" minimum length limit on spotted bass
- Catfish (*channel, blue and flathead*)—10 fish daily limit in the aggregate
- Crappie—10" minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit

On the lake and its tributaries:

- Walleye and sauger—18" minimum length limit

In the Swan Creek Arm above U.S. Highway 160:

- From Feb. 20 through April 14, walleye and sauger may be taken and possessed only between 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Central Standard Time.

From Powersite Dam to Highway 76:

- Trotlines, throwlines and limb lines are prohibited.

Lake of the Ozarks

Lakewide:

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass; 12" minimum length limit on spotted bass
- Crappie—9" minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit
- Nongame fish—Snagging, snaring and grabbing are allowed from March 15 through April 30 only.

On the lake and its tributaries:

- Paddlefish—34" minimum body length
- No person shall continue to snag, snare or grab for any species after taking a daily limit of 2 paddlefish.

Within 525 feet on the left descending bank and 977 feet on the right descending bank below Truman Dam in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' restricted zone:

- No fishing is allowed.

From the downstream end of the no fishing zone below Truman Dam throughout the no boating zone (look for signs and buoys):

- Catfish—The daily limit of channel, blue and flathead catfish is 4 in the aggregate and only 1 may be more than 24" in total length.
- Paddlefish may not be possessed.

From the downstream end of the no fishing zone below Truman Dam to U.S. Highway 65:

- Trotlines, throwlines, limb lines, jug lines, snagging, snaring and grabbing are prohibited.

Lake Taneycomo

On the lake and its tributaries:

- Brown trout—20" minimum length limit; the daily limit of 5 trout in the aggregate may include only 1 brown trout.

Within 760 feet below Table Rock Dam:

- No fishing is allowed.

From the closed zone 760 feet below Table Rock Dam to the mouth of Fall Creek:

- Rainbow trout—12" to 20" slot length limit
- Pole and line fishing only
- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.

Long Branch Lake

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit
- Crappie—15 fish daily limit
- Walleye and sauger—18" minimum length limit

Become a Master Angler

The Conservation Department recognizes anglers who catch selected fish species that meet minimum weight or length requirements. To be eligible for a Master Angler award, anglers must catch fish in Missouri by legal sport-fishing methods. The catch does not need to be verified. Anglers are on their honor to provide accurate information.



To apply, write to Master Angler, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City MO 65102-0180; call 573/751-4115; or look on the web at: www.missouriconservation.org.

Longview Lake

- Pole and line fishing only, except that shad may be taken by dip net or throw net.
- Black bass—15" minimum length limit
- **New** Flathead catfish—24" minimum length limit; 1 fish daily limit

Mark Twain Lake

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit
- Crappie—15 fish daily limit

Montrose Lake

- Black bass—18" minimum length limit; 2 fish daily limit
- Crappie—15 fish daily limit

Norfolk Lake

Lakewide:

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass; 12" minimum length limit on spotted bass
- Catfish (*channel, blue and flathead*)—Daily limit of 10 fish in the aggregate
- Crappie—10" minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit

On the lake and its tributaries:

- Walleye and sauger—18" minimum length limit

Pomme de Terre Lake

- Black bass—13" minimum length limit
- Crappie—9" minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit

Smithville Lake

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit
- Crappie—9" minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit

Stockton Lake

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit
- Crappie—10" minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit

Table Rock Lake

Lakewide:

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit
- Catfish (*channel, blue and flathead*)—Daily limit of 10 fish in the aggregate
- Crappie—10" minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit
- Walleye and sauger—18" minimum length limit

On the lake and its tributaries:

- Paddlefish—34" minimum body length

Thomas Hill Lake

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit
- Crappie—15 fish daily limit

- White bass, yellow bass, striped bass and their hybrids—20" minimum length limit; daily limit of 4 in the aggregate

Truman Lake

Lakewide:

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit
- Crappie—9" minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit
- Nongame fish—Snagging, snaring and grabbing are allowed from March 15 through April 30 only.

On the lake and its tributaries:

- Paddlefish—34" minimum body length
- No person shall continue to snag, snare or grab for any species after taking a daily limit of 2 paddlefish.

Wappapello Lake and its tributaries

Including the St. Francis River and its tributaries above Wappapello Dam

- Walleye and sauger—18" minimum length limit

Help stop zebra mussels



Adult zebra mussels have been found in the Mississippi, Missouri and Meramec rivers near St. Louis. Although less than 2 inches long, these exotics:

- **CLOG** the cooling systems of boat motors causing them to overheat.
- **PLUG** intake pipes, cutting off water supplies to cities and power plants.
- **RUIN** beaches with their sharp shells and rotting carcasses.
- **SPREAD** quickly. A single female can produce 1 million eggs a year.

To help stop the invasion of this European mussel:

Inspect, Drain, Dump, Rinse, Dry!

- **INSPECT** your boat for mussels after each use, remove and trash mussels and water weeds before leaving any body of water.
- **DRAIN** all water from your boat, bait buckets and equipment before leaving any body of water. disinfect them.
- **DUMP** leftover bait on land, away from water, before leaving any body of water.
- **RINSE** your boat's hull, drive unit, livewell and pump, bilge, trailer, bait bucket, engine cooling system and all other parts and accessories that get wet.
- **DRY** your boat, motor and trailer thoroughly for 5 days before boating again.

Report sightings to Mussel Biologist, 1110 S. College Ave., Columbia, MO 65201, or call 573/882-9880. Save several mussel shells in isopropyl alcohol for identification.

Rivers and Streams

Barren Fork Creek

In Shannon County from County Road A-D to Sinking Creek:

- Wild Trout Management Area—See page 14 for special regulations.
- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.

Big Buffalo Creek and its tributaries

Down to Lake of the Ozarks at Zora Road bridge in Benton County, Section 25, T41N, R20W:

- Smallmouth bass—catch-and-release only

Big Piney River

New From Highway 17 to the Gasconade River:

- Rock bass—8" minimum length limit

From Slabtown Access to Ross Access:

- Smallmouth bass—15" minimum length limit. The daily limit of 6 black bass may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

Big River

Mainstem and its tributaries:

- Black bass—The daily and possession limit is 12 fish and may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in the aggregate.
- Spotted bass—No minimum length limit.

New From Leadwood Access to the Meramec River:

- Smallmouth bass—15" minimum length limit. The daily and possession limit of 12 black bass, which may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in the aggregate, may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

Stop Fish and Wildlife Thieves and Arsonists

Operation Game Thief and Operation Forest Arson are privately funded programs to help combat poaching and arson-caused forest fires in Missouri. Rewards are available for information leading to the arrest of game law violators and forest arsonists.

If you see a possible violation in progress, call your county conservation agent immediately or dial toll-free 1-800-392-1111. All information is kept in strict confidence.

Sponsored by the Conservation Federation of Missouri, the Missouri Department of Conservation and the U.S. Forest Service.



Black River

Within the wing walls of Clearwater Dam:

- No fishing is allowed.

Within 700 feet below the spillway walls of Clearwater Dam:

- Trotlines, throwlines, limb lines, bowfishing and giggering are prohibited.

Blue Spring Creek

- Black bass—The daily and possession limit is 12 fish and may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in the aggregate.
- Spotted bass—No minimum length limit.

In Crawford County from Blue Spring to the Meramec River:

- Wild Trout Management Area—See page 14 for special regulations.
- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.

Bourbeuse River

Mainstem and its tributaries:

- Black bass—The daily and possession limit is 12 fish and may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in the aggregate.
- Spotted bass—No minimum length limit.

Crane Creek

In Stone and Lawrence counties upstream from Quail Spur Crossing on Stone County Road 13-195:

- Wild Trout Management Area—See page 14 for special regulations.
- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.

Current River

Mainstem and its tributaries:

- Walleye and sauger—18" minimum length limit

From Montauk State Park to Cedar Grove:

- Special Trout Management Area—See page 14 for special regulations.
- Giggering and bowfishing are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.
- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.

From Cedar Grove to the Arkansas line:

- Nongame fish—The daily limit may include no more than 5 hogsuckers.

Dry Fork Creek

Mainstem and its tributaries:

- Black bass—The daily and possession limit is 12 fish and may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in the aggregate.
- Spotted bass—No minimum length limit.

In Crawford and Phelps counties from the elevated cable crossing to the Meramec River:

- Part of the Meramec River Special Trout Management Area—See page 15 for special regulations.
- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.

Eleven Point River

Mainstem and its tributaries:

- Walleye and sauger—18" minimum length limit

From Thomasville Access to the Arkansas line:

- Rock bass—8" minimum length limit.
- Smallmouth bass—15" minimum length limit. The daily limit of 6 black bass may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

From Greer Spring Branch to Turner Mill:

- Wild Trout Management Area—See page 14 for special regulations.
- Giggling and bowfishing are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.
- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.

Elk River

- **New** Black bass—15" minimum length limit; 2 fish daily limit

Gasconade River

From Highway Y in Pulaski County to Highway D in Phelps County:

- Smallmouth bass—18" minimum length limit. The daily limit of 6 black bass may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

Greer Spring Branch

As posted upstream from the south boundary of the private reservation:

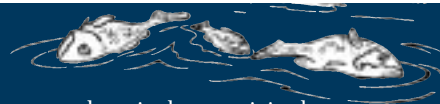
- No fishing is allowed.

Jacks Fork River

From Highway 17 to Highway 106:

- Smallmouth bass—18" minimum length limit. The daily limit of 6 black bass may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

Report Stream Pollution



If you find dead fish, leaking barrels of unknown chemicals, municipal or livestock lagoons discharging poorly treated effluent, broken pipelines or unauthorized dredging or bulldozing polluting a stream, report it as soon as possible to the Department of Natural Resources' 24-hour environmental emergency response number (573/634-2436) if the situation requires immediate action. Or call your county conservation agent, listed in the yellow pages under "Government Offices—State Conservation Department," or the Environmental Services Unit of the Conservation Department at 573/882-9880.

James River

From Hooten Town bridge on Stone County Road A-90 to Highway 13:

- Largemouth bass—15" minimum length limit
- Smallmouth bass—15" minimum length limit. The daily limit of 6 black bass may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

Little Piney Creek

From the Phelps County line in sections 9 and 16 of T35N, R8W, including Piney Spring Branch and Lane Spring Branch to Milldam Hollow Access:

- Wild Trout Management Area—See page 14 for special regulations.
- Giggling and bowfishing are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.
- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.

Little Platte River

Between Smithville Dam and U.S. Highway 169:

- Pole and line fishing only
- Paddlefish may not be possessed on the water or adjacent banks.

Meramec River

Mainstem and its tributaries:

- Black bass—The daily and possession limit is 12 fish and may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in the aggregate.
- Spotted bass—No minimum length limit.

From Highway 8 bridge to Scott's Ford:

- Special Trout Management Area—See page 15 for special regulations.
- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.

From Scott's Ford to the railroad crossing at Bird's Nest:

- Smallmouth bass—15" minimum length limit. The daily and possession limit of 12 black bass, which may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in the aggregate, may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

Mill Creek

From Yelton Spring to Little Piney Creek, including Wilkins Spring and spring branch:

- Wild Trout Management Area—See page 15 for special regulations.
- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.

Mineral Fork

Mainstem and its tributaries:

- Black bass—The daily and possession limit is 12 fish and may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in the aggregate.
- Spotted bass—No minimum length limit.

From Highway F in Washington County to the Big River:

- Smallmouth bass—15" minimum length limit. The daily and possession limit of 12 black bass, which may include no more than 6 largemouth bass, and smallmouth bass in the aggregate, may include only 1 smallmouth bass

Mississippi River, including Pools 20-26

- Black bass—12" minimum length limit
- Channel catfish and blue catfish—The daily and possession limit is 20 in the aggregate.
- Flathead catfish—The daily and possession limit is 10 fish.
- Paddlefish—The open season is March 15 through May 15 and Sept. 15 through Dec. 15.
- Walleye and sauger—No minimum length limit. The daily and possession limit is 8 in the aggregate. No seasonal restrictions on the hours for take and possession.
- White bass, yellow bass, striped bass and their hybrids—No minimum length limit. The daily and possession limit is 30 in the aggregate.
- Shovelnose sturgeon—Snagging, snaring and grabbing are allowed from March 15 through May 15 and from Sept. 15 through Dec. 15.
- Nongame fish—The daily and possession limit is 100 in the aggregate, except that bighead carp, common carp, goldfish, grass carp and silver carp may be taken and possessed in any number. Snagging, snaring and grabbing are allowed from March 15 through May 15 and from Sept. 15 through Dec. 15.
- Limit of 2 poles per licensed angler
- Limit of 50 hooks on a trotline

Missouri River

- Walleye and sauger—No seasonal restrictions on the hours for take and possession.

Niangua River and its tributaries

- Special Trout Management Area—See page 15 for special regulations.

North Fork of the White River

From the upper outlet of Rainbow Spring to Blair Bridge:

- Wild Trout Management Area—See page 15 for special regulations.
- Giggling and bowfishing are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.
- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.

From the unimpounded portion of river and its tributaries in Ozark County from Blair Bridge to Norfork Lake:

- Special Trout Management Area—See page 15 for special regulations.

Osage River

Within 525 feet on the left descending bank and 977 feet on the right descending bank below Truman Dam in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' restricted zone:

- No fishing is allowed.

From the downstream end of the no fishing zone below Truman Dam throughout the no boating zone (look for signs and buoys):

- Catfish—The daily limit of channel, blue and flathead catfish is 4 in the aggregate and only one 1 may be more than 24" in total length.
- Paddlefish may not be possessed on the water or adjacent banks.

From the downstream end of the no fishing zone below Truman Dam to U.S. Highway 65:

- Trotlines, throwlines, limb lines, jug lines, snagging, snaring and grabbing are prohibited.

Within 225 feet below Bagnell Dam:

- No fishing is allowed.

From the no-fishing zone below Bagnell Dam to U.S. Highway 54:

- Trotlines, throwlines, limb lines, snagging, snaring and grabbing are prohibited.

From U.S. Highway 54 to the Missouri River:

- Nongame fish—Snagging, snaring and grabbing are allowed from March 15 through April 30 only.
- No person shall continue to snag, snare or grab for any species after taking a daily limit of 2 paddlefish.

Osage Fork of the Gasconade River

From Skyline Drive bridge near Orla in Laclede County to the Gasconade River:

- Rock bass—8" minimum length limit.
- Smallmouth bass—15" minimum length limit. The daily limit of 6 black bass may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

Roubidoux Creek

From the elevated utility cable crossing approximately 1/2 mile below the Business I-44 bridge in Waynesville to the Gasconade River:

- Special Trout Management Area—See page 16 for special regulations.
- Giggling and bowfishing are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.
- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.

Sac River

From below Stockton Dam to Highway 32:

- Pole and line fishing only

St. Francis River

Above Wappapello Dam, from the lake and its tributaries including the St. Francis River and its tributaries:

- Walleye and sauger—18" minimum length limit.

Within 225 feet below Wappapello Dam:

- No fishing is allowed.

From within 700 feet below the spillway walls of Wappapello Dam:

- Trotlines, throwlines, limb lines, bowfishing and giggling are prohibited.

Salt River

On the Clarence Cannon Reregulation Pool within 400 feet below Clarence Cannon Dam in the no boating zone:

- No fishing is allowed.

From the downstream end of the no fishing zone below Clarence Cannon Dam to the posted powerline crossing on the Clarence Cannon Reregulation Pool:

- Pole and line fishing only.

From the Clarence Cannon Reregulation Pool below Mark Twain Lake dam:

- Black bass—12" minimum length limit

From the Clarence Cannon Reregulation Pool Dam to Route A:

- Pole and line fishing only.

Spring Creek

In Phelps County from Relfe Spring to the Big Piney River:

- Wild Trout Management Area—see page 16 for special regulations.
- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.

Tenmile Creek

From Highway B in Carter County to Cane Creek:

- Smallmouth bass—15" minimum length limit. The daily limit of 6 black bass may include only 1 smallmouth bass.



A cigarette butt here, a food wrapper there, bottles and cans everywhere.... Litter is a serious problem all over the state, but you can turn it around. When you're outdoors, be sure you leave no litter behind.

And when you're indoors, visit www.nomotrash.org to help spread the message and make the dream of a clean, litter-free state come true.



Jim Rathert

Team Up For Streams

You can help protect Missouri's valuable stream habitat by starting a Stream Team in your area. By becoming a part of this program, you can stay updated on current stream issues and improve our aquatic resources.



Among other activities, team members clean up trash, plant trees, stencil storm drains and monitor water quality.

For more information, contact the Missouri Department of Conservation, Stream Unit, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180. Or call 573/522-4115, ext. 3169, or 1-800-781-1989.

Definitions

■ **Backwaters:** Any flowing or nonflowing water lying exclusively within the floodplain of a river and connected to that river at any water level below official flood stage for the portion of river where the backwater occurs. Backwater does not include tributary streams and ditches, but may include side channels, chutes, sloughs, bayous, oxbows and blew holes.

■ **Flies, Lures and Baits:** The following classes of lures are authorized for use, except where restricted. See pages 12-16 and 26-36.

(A) **Natural and scented baits**—A natural fish food such as bait fish, crayfish, frogs permitted as bait, grubs, insects, larvae, worms, salmon eggs, cheese, corn and other food substances not containing any ingredient to stupefy, injure or kill fish. Does not include flies or artificial lures. Includes dough bait, putty or paste-type bait, any substance designed to attract fish by taste or smell and any fly, lure or bait containing or used with such substances.

(B) **Soft plastic bait (unscented)**—Synthetic eggs, synthetic worms, synthetic grubs and soft plastic lures.

(C) **Artificial Lure**—A lure constructed of any material excluding soft plastic bait and natural and scented bait defined in (A) or (B) above.

(D) **Fly**—An artificial lure constructed on a single-point hook, using any material except soft plastic bait and natural and scented bait as defined in (A) or (B) above, that is tied, glued or otherwise permanently attached.

■ **Days or Dates:** All days and dates are inclusive. A day begins or ends at midnight, unless otherwise specified.



Cliff White

Many lakes in Missouri have docks that provide easy access to good fishing. To find disabled-accessible fishing spots near you, contact one of the regional offices listed on page 41.

■ **Endangered Fish:** Lake sturgeon, pallid sturgeon, taillight shiner, Neosho madtom, spring cavefish, harlequin darter, goldstripe darter, cypress minnow, central mudminnow, crystal darter, swamp darter, Ozark cavefish, Niangua darter, Sabine shiner, mountain madtom, redbfin darter, longnose darter, flathead chub, Topeka shiner. **These fish may not be kept.**

■ **Game Fish:** Rock bass (*goggle-eye*), warmouth, northern pike, muskellunge, tiger muskie, muskie-pike hybrid, chain pickerel, grass pickerel, all species of catfish except bullheads, all species of black bass (largemouth, smallmouth and spotted), paddlefish (*spoonbill*), all species of crappie, white bass, yellow bass and striped bass, trout, walleye, sauger. Shovelnose sturgeon are classified as game fish after July 1, 2004.

■ **Grabbing:** Snagging or attempting to snag a fish by means of a pole, line and hook manipulated by hand.

■ **Hook:** Single- or multiple-pronged hooks and ordinary artificial lures with attached single- or multiple-pronged hooks and dropper flies. A multiple-pronged hook, or 2 or more hooks used to hold a single bait are considered a single hook.

■ **Resident Landowner:** Any Missouri resident who is the owner of at least 5 acres in one continuous tract or any member of the immediate household of such owner.

■ **Nongame Fish:** All species other than those listed as endangered or defined as game fish. Nongame fish are referred to as “other fish” in the *Wildlife Code*.

■ **Pole or Rod and Line:** Fishing tackle normally held in the hand, such as a cane pole, casting rod, spinning rod or fly rod, to which not more than 3 hooks with bait or lures are attached. Does not include snagging, snaring, grabbing, trotlines, juglines or other tackle normally attached in a fixed position.

■ **Take or Taking:** Killing, trapping, snaring, netting or capturing in any manner any wildlife, and also refers to pursuing, molesting, hunting, wounding; or the placing, setting, or use of any net, trap, device, contrivance or substance, in an attempt to take wildlife; and every act of assistance to every other person in taking or attempting to take any wildlife.

A Few Words About Culling

Any fish you catch is included in your daily limit unless you release it unharmed immediately. You may not replace smaller fish in your possession with larger ones caught later. You need to make a keep-or-release decision as soon as the fish is caught.

There is one exception: If, from September through June, you are a participant in a bona fide catch-and-release black bass tournament (*one after which all bass are released alive*), which requires entrants to have a boat livewell with adequate capacity and a pump constantly adding fresh or recirculating water, the black bass you release unharmed from the livewell need not be included in your daily limit. At no time may the daily limit be exceeded.



Free Guide to Smallmouth Bass

The Department's free "Ozark Smallmouth Bass Fishing" map is your guide to streams where these game fish can be found. Included are directions to river accesses, angling tips, regulations and more. To get your copy of this new map, write to: "Ozark Smallmouth Bass Fishing" map, Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180.



Health Advisory

Missouri has seen a slow decrease in contamination levels of some chemicals in its waters. Although almost all fish caught in Missouri rivers and streams are safe to eat, a few advisories remain in effect, according to the Missouri Department of Health. Based on fish sampling and analysis completed by the Missouri Department of Conservation, the following advisory has been compiled as of June 2003:

Warning on 12-inch and larger largemouth bass for children and women of childbearing age:

- Largemouth bass more than 12 inches in length have been found to be contaminated with mercury at levels of health concern to children whose nervous systems are still developing. Therefore, women who are pregnant, who may become pregnant or who are nursing and children 12 years of age or younger should not eat any largemouth bass more than 12 inches in length from anywhere in Missouri. It is still safe and healthy for other persons to consume largemouth bass because the levels of mercury are only harmful to a child's developing nervous system.
- Eating largemouth bass smaller than 12 inches in length is safe for women of childbearing age and children because these fish are younger, consume smaller prey and have not consumed enough fish over a long enough period of time to have elevated levels of mercury in their bodies.

Do not eat:

- Sturgeon from Missouri and Mississippi rivers
- Carp, sunfish, redbreast and other suckers from Big River in St. Francois and Jefferson counties, and the Flat River in St. Francois County from Highway B, 6 miles downstream to where it enters the Big River
- Sunfish from Big Creek in Iron County near Glover

This advisory may be revised throughout the year. For updates, contact: Fisheries Advisory, Missouri Department of Conservation, 1110 S. College Ave., Columbia, MO 65201. Phone: 573/882-9880

Regional Offices

Administrative Office

P.O. Box 180 (zip 65102)
2901 W. Truman Blvd.
Jefferson City 65109
573/751-4115
Fax: 573/751-4467

Kansas City

3424 N.W. Duncan
Road
Blue Springs 64015
816/655-6250
Fax: 816/655-6256

Ozark

551 Joe Jones Blvd.
P.O. Box 138
West Plains 65775
417/256-7161
Fax: 417/256-0429

Northwest

701 James McCarthy Drive
St. Joseph 64507
816/271-3100
Fax: 816/271-3107

Central

1907 Hillcrest Drive
Columbia 65201
573/884-6861
Fax: 573/882-9807

Southwest

2630 N. Mayfair
Springfield 65803
417/895-6880
Fax: 417/895-6910

Northeast

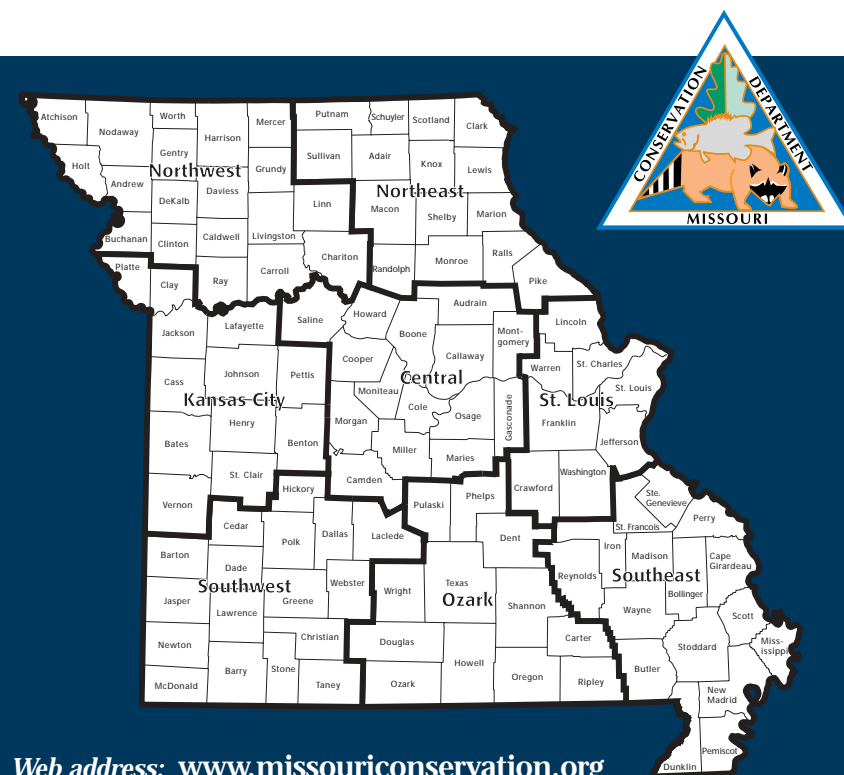
2500 S. Halliburton
Kirksville 63501
660/785-2420
Fax: 660/785-2553

St. Louis

2360 Highway D
St. Charles 63304
636/441-4554
Fax: 636/926-9125

Southeast

2302 County Park Drive
Cape Girardeau 63701
573/290-5730
Fax: 573/290-5736



Web address: www.missouriconservation.org



Think you've got a record?

The Department of Conservation maintains a list of Missouri State Record Fish and recognizes anglers who catch them. To be eligible for an award, your fish must be taken legally and you must:

- Weigh it in the presence of Conservation Department personnel on an accurate scale subject to verification at any time.
- Have your fish identification verified by a Conservation Department fisheries biologist.

Weights of Selected Missouri State Record Fish

<i>Species</i>	<i>Pole, Line & Lure</i>		<i>Alternative Methods</i>	
Largemouth bass	13 lb.	14 oz.	8 lb.	2 oz.
Smallmouth bass	7 lb.	2 oz.	4 lb.	3 oz.
Spotted bass	7 lb.	8 oz.		
Bluegill	3 lb.	0 oz.		
Common carp	50 lb.	6 oz.	55 lb.	1 oz.
Channel catfish	34 lb.	10 oz.	29 lb.	14 oz.
Flathead catfish	77 lb.	8 oz.	94 lb.	0 oz.
White crappie	4 lb.	9 oz.		
Muskellunge	41 lb.	2 oz.		
Paddlefish			139 lb.	4 oz.
Rock bass	2 lb.	12 oz.		
Rainbow trout	16 lb.	13 oz.	15 lb.	6 oz.
Brown trout	26 lb.	13 oz.		
Walleye	21 lb.	1 oz.		

Record Fish forms and information are available from: Missouri Department of Conservation, Fisheries Division, State Record Fish, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180, or call 573/751-4115.

Note: All Missouri State Record Fish must meet the minimum requirements for Master Angler Awards. See page 27.